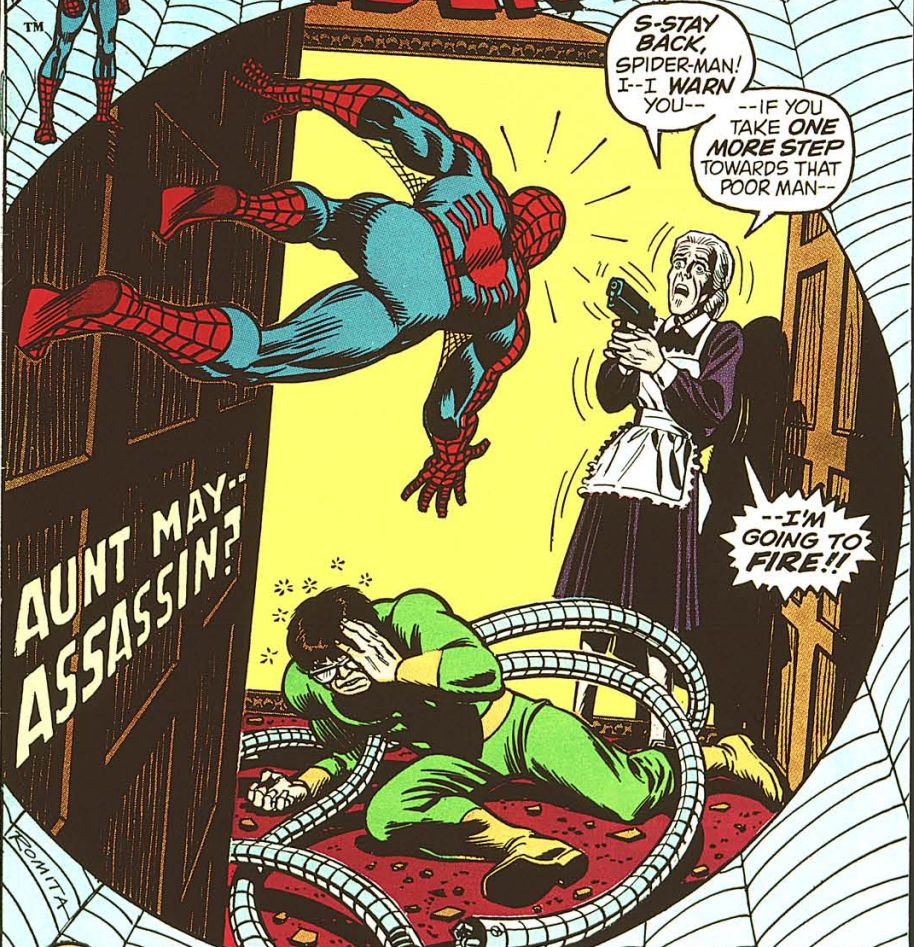


SPIDER-MAN
20¢ 115
DEC 02457

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



S-STAY BACK, SPIDER-MAN! I--I WARN YOU--
--IF YOU TAKE ONE MORE STEP TOWARDS THAT POOR MAN--

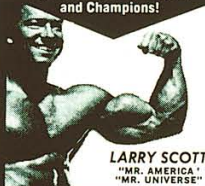
--I'M GOING TO FIRE!!

AUNT MAY--
ASSASSIN?

THIS IS IT!

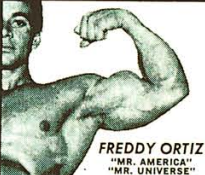
THE LAST BATTLE!

Send For Free Information On How YOU, TOO, CAN OWN A POWER-PACK BODY Like These Weider Pupils and Champions!



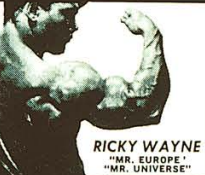
LARRY SCOTT
"MR. AMERICA"
"MR. UNIVERSE"

Twice "Mr. Olympia" winner-Larry stands 5' 7", weighs 200 lbs. and has a pair of 20" arms! He is considered one of the world's best-built men—but he was a 130-lb. weakling before mailing the coupon! This Can Happen To You Too!



FREDDY ORTIZ
"MR. AMERICA"
"MR. UNIVERSE"

Winner-Freddy stands 5' 5", weighs 185 lbs. of rock-hard muscle. His arms measure 16" and he is considered the best-built short man in the world. Yet he was a 115-lb. skinny weakling before sending in the coupon! Why Not You?



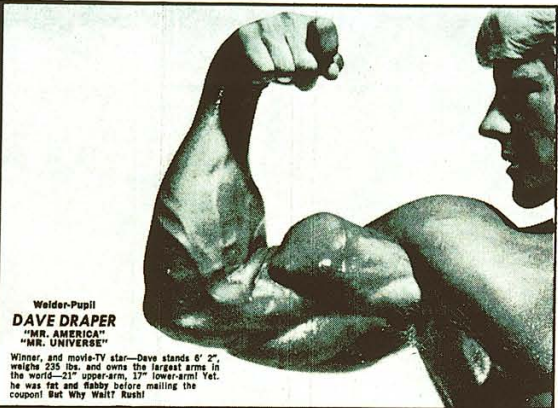
RICKY WAYNE
"MR. EUROPE"
"MR. UNIVERSE"

Winner-Ricky is 5' 8", weighs 198 lbs. of Herculean muscle. His arms measure a full 19" —and he is considered the best-built man in Europe today. He weighed a pitiful 123 lbs. before sending in the coupon! And It Can Happen To You!



CHUCK SIPES
"MR. AMERICA"
"MR. UNIVERSE"

Winner-Chuck stands 6', weighs 225 lbs., and has a pair of 20" arms — among the strongest in the world! He was a 141-lb. weakling before sending in the free coupon! Now How About You?



Welder-Pupil
DAVE DRAPER
"MR. AMERICA"
"MR. UNIVERSE"

Winner, and movie-TV star—Dave stands 6' 2", weighs 225 lbs. and owns the largest arms in the world—21" upper-arm, 17" lower-arm! Yet, he was fat and flabby before mailing the coupon! But Why Wait? Rush!

FREE! MUSCLE COURSE THAT CAN ADD 3 INCHES TO YOUR ARMS FAST! ...AND MAKE YOU INTO AN ATHLETIC VIRILE HE-MAN!!

In half the time, with twice the ease, in the privacy of your own room, in just a few minutes a day, I will, through my "TRIPLE-PROGRESSION COURSE" that I want to send you FREE, guarantee that virtually overnight, you will experience a muscle-building miracle! Before your eyes you'll slap on inches of steel-hard muscles to your pipe-stem arms, pack your chest with power and size, give yourself life-guard shoulders, dynamic, speedy, athletic legs. Add jet-charged strength to every muscle in your body. I don't care if, today, you own the scraggiest, flabbiest, skinniest or funniest-looking body, whether you're tall or short, young or not-so-young, skinny or fat, office-worker, laborer, school-boy or businessman, I must make a new,

virile he-man out of you—with handsome muscles bursting out all over! They will ripple with power, vibrate with energy! And for the first time in your life, men will envy your body—women admire it, because at last you will own a body that brings you fame instead of shame! What I did for Dave Draper "Mr. Universe" winner, and for hundreds of other champions since 1936, I am ready to do for you! A.C.T-I-O-N is the key to strength! Fill out the coupon below NOW! Rush it to me—and in hours, with no charge to you—at my own expense, you too, like Dave Draper did, will start putting an end to your weakness! You have nothing to lose but your weakness! ACT NOW!—SUPPLY IS LIMITED!

THIS GIANT 32 PAGE COURSE

WRITE TO: JOE WEIDER Dept. 83-112 G
TRAINER OF CHAMPIONS SINCE 1936,
25 Maple Street
Norwood, N.J. 07648

Dear Joe: Shoot the works! I am saying YES to becoming a New Man! Rush me your free Muscle-Building information which I can use right now at home to build a handsome and useful body.

I enclose only 25¢ to cover the cost of handling and mailing. I am under no further obligation.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____
ZIP CODE _____ AGE _____
(Please print clearly)

- I have ☒ where I need more muscle:
I Want: ☐ Bigger Arms ☐ Larger Neck ☐ Deeper Chest
☐ Trim Waist ☐ Athletic Legs ☐ Added Weight
☐ Broader Shoulders ☐ More Endurance and Power



ABSOLUTELY FREE!

JOE WEIDER
Personal Trainer of "Mr. America" "Mr. Universe" "Mr. Canada" perfect men title winners since 1936—and over 2,000,000 successful pupils the world over!

MAIL COUPON TODAY! NO OBLIGATION! NOTHING TO BUY!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™**



THE MIND-BOGGLING CONCLUSION OF THE GREATEST ACTION-EPIC IN THIS, THE MARVEL RENAISSANCE!

EXCEDRIN HEADACHE NUMBER 115: HAVING TRACED HIS MISSING AUNT TO THE WESTCHESTER HIDEOUT OF DOCTOR OCTOPUS, SPIDEY FALLS PREY TO A SUDDEN BLACKOUT OF HIS SPIDER-SENSES--

--A BLACKOUT CAUSED BY HIS AUNT'S UNEXPECTED APPEARANCE--MAKING HIM A VICTIM OF A HANDILY-WIELDED VASE!

AND EVEN AS OUR HERO DRIFTS THROUGH THE LAYERS OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS, THE TENTACLED MASTERMIND CALLED DOCTOR OCTOPUS PREPARES FOR HIS MOST CRUCIAL ENCOUNTER--

--WITH HIS SINISTER RIVAL--
NAMMERHEAD!

ONLY ONE OF US CAN RUN THIS TOWN--
SO IT'S OCK OR ME!

AN' I GOT A FEELIN' THAT THIS IS IT--

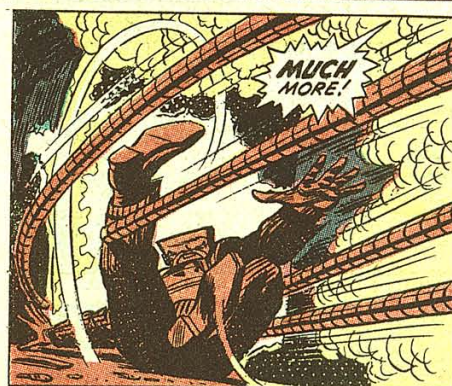
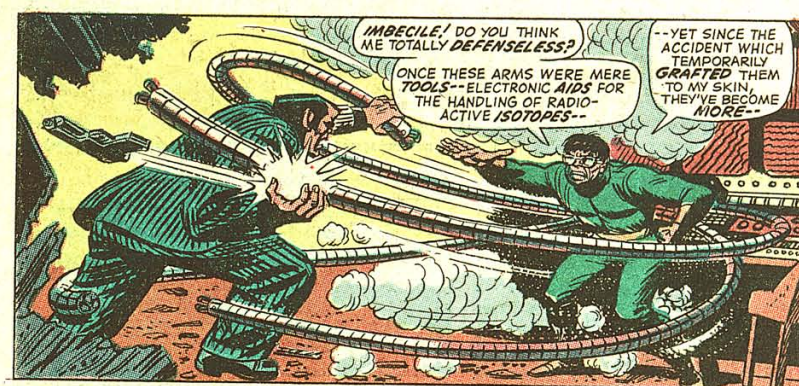
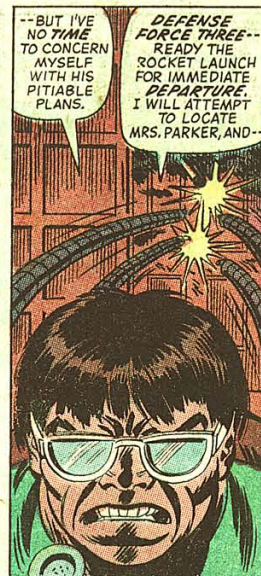
THE LAST BATTLE!

ART AND STORY BY
JOHN ROMITA
AND
GERRY CONWAY

EDITED BY: ROY THOMAS • ART ASSIST: TONY MORTELLARO • LETTERED BY: ARTIE SIMEK

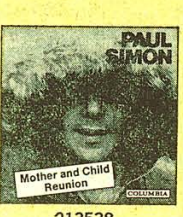
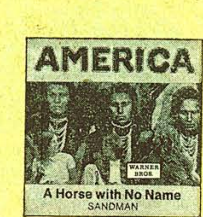
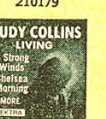
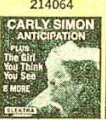
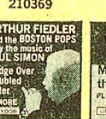
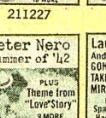
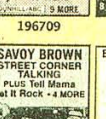
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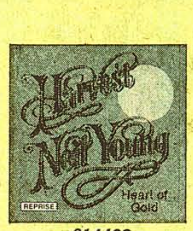
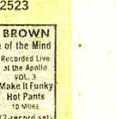
Any 14 of these

If you join now and agree to buy ten more records (at regular Club prices)

 213678	 214940	 210179	 213538	 215392
 214064	 211706	 213629		
 212845	 210781	 210369	 209239	 214973
 210237	 206573	 212753	 212621	 211714
 210229	 203372	 211227	 212480	 196809
 207522	 210211	 212159	 212431	 210203
 196709	 211565	 211805	 207472	 211672
 210146	 202713	 210195	 210260	 210153
				 196444

hit records FOR ONLY \$2.86

during the coming two years (you will have up to 300 records a month to choose from)

 214403	 214650	 214981	 209981	 212852
 198986	 207993	 196246	 203539	 195727
 214353	 210138	 212654	 211755	 209726
			 209726	 213660

Yes, it's true! — If you join now, you may have ANY 14 of these records for only \$2.86. Just mail the application at the right, together with your check or money order for \$2.86, in exchange...

You agree to buy just ten records (at regular Club prices) in the coming two years — and you may cancel membership at any time after doing so.

Your own charge account will be opened upon enrollment... and the records you order as a member will be mailed and billed at the regular Club price of \$4.98 or \$5.98 each, plus processing and postage. (Multi-record sets are somewhat higher.)

You may accept or reject records as follows: every four weeks you will receive a new copy of the Club's music magazine, which describes the regular selection for each musical interest... plus hundreds of alternate selections.

... **If you do not want any record** in any month, just return the selection card provided by the date specified.

... **If you want only the regular selection** for your musical interest, you need do nothing — it will be shipped to you automatically.

... **If you want any of the other records offered**, just order them on the selection card and return it by the date specified.

... **and from time to time** we will offer some special albums, which you may reject by returning the selection card provided... or accept by simply doing nothing.

You'll be eligible for our bonus plan upon completing your enrollment agreement — a plan which enables you to get one record of your choice free (only 25¢ for processing and postage) for every one you buy thereafter. Act now — fill in and mail the application today!

Columbia Record Club
a service of  **Columbia House**
Torrance, Indiana 47808

COLUMBIA RECORD CLUB, Torrance, Indiana 47808

I am enclosing check or money order for \$2.86 as payment for the 14 records below. Please accept my membership application. I agree to purchase ten records (at regular Club prices) during the coming two years, and may cancel membership any time thereafter. If I continue, I'll be eligible for your bonus plan.

Send these 14 records — I've enclosed check or money order for \$2.86

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

All records will be described in advance in the Magazine, sent every four weeks. If I do not want any record, I'll return the selection card by the date specified... or use the card to order any record I want. If I want only the regular selection for my musical interest, I need do nothing — it will be sent automatically. From time to time, I'll be offered special albums which I may accept or reject by using the dated form provided.

MY MAIN MUSICAL INTEREST IS

☐ Easy Listening ☐ Young Sound ☐ Jazz
☐ Country ☐ Broadway & Hollywood ☐ Classical

☐ Mr. ☐ Miss ☐ (Please print) First Name Initial Last Name

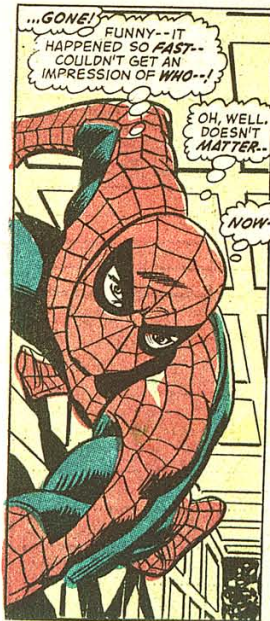
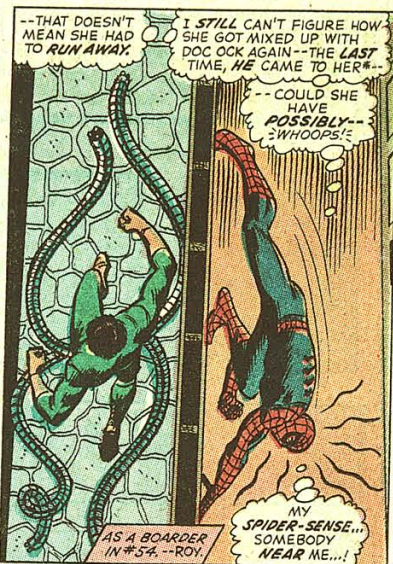
Address _____

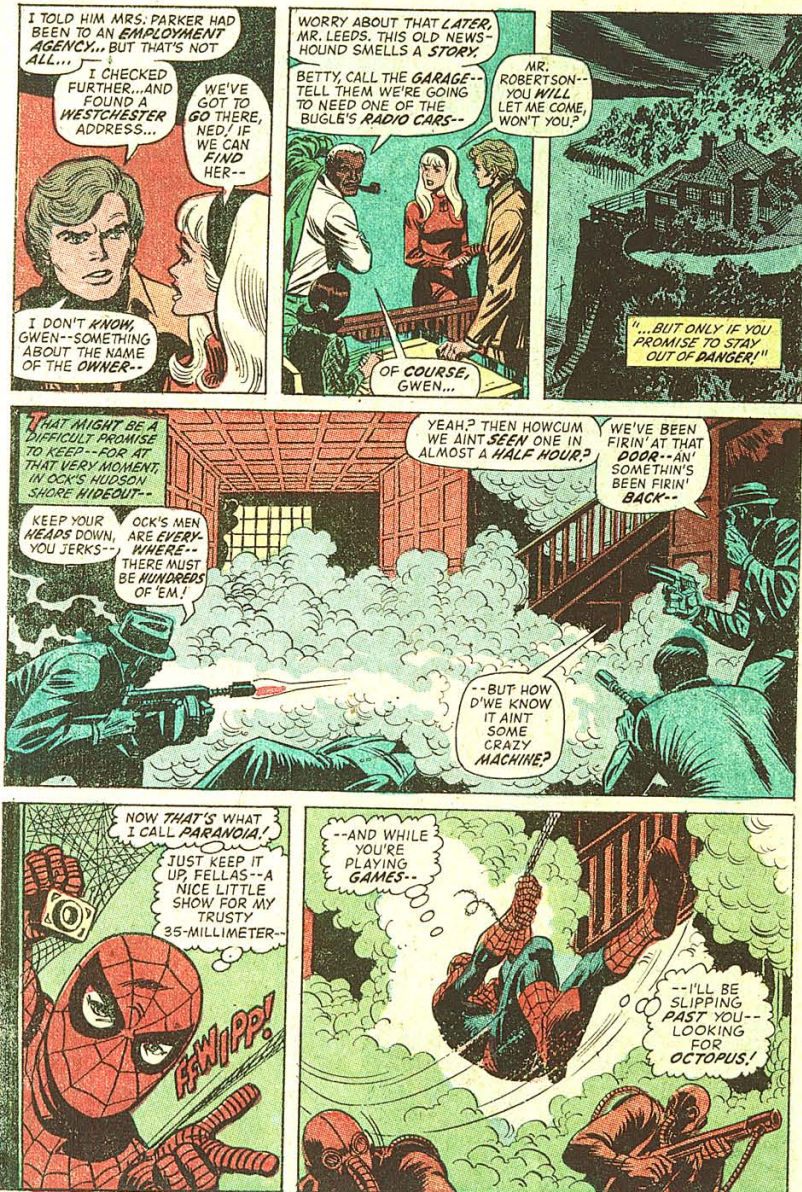
City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Do you have a telephone? (check one) ☐ YES... ☐ NO

APD, FPO addresses: write for special offer (B5-Z) DOL





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—W. R., New York

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

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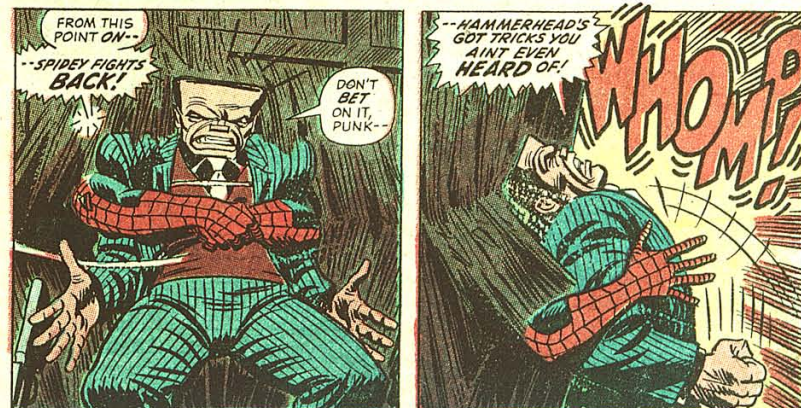
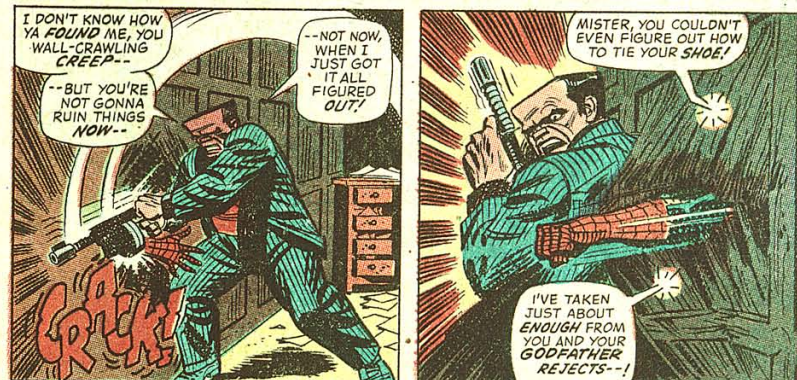
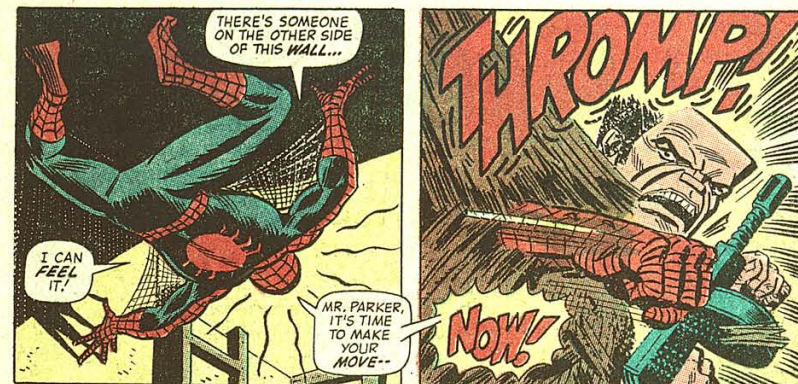
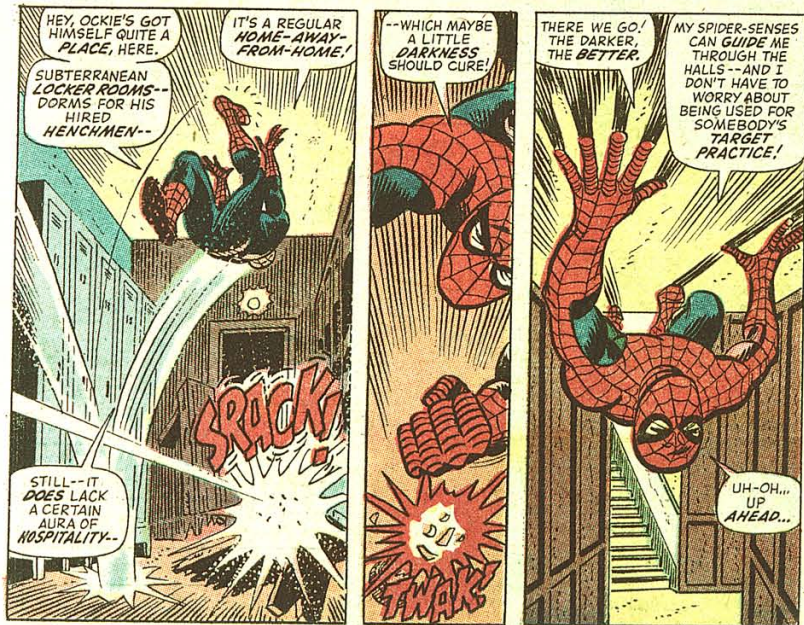
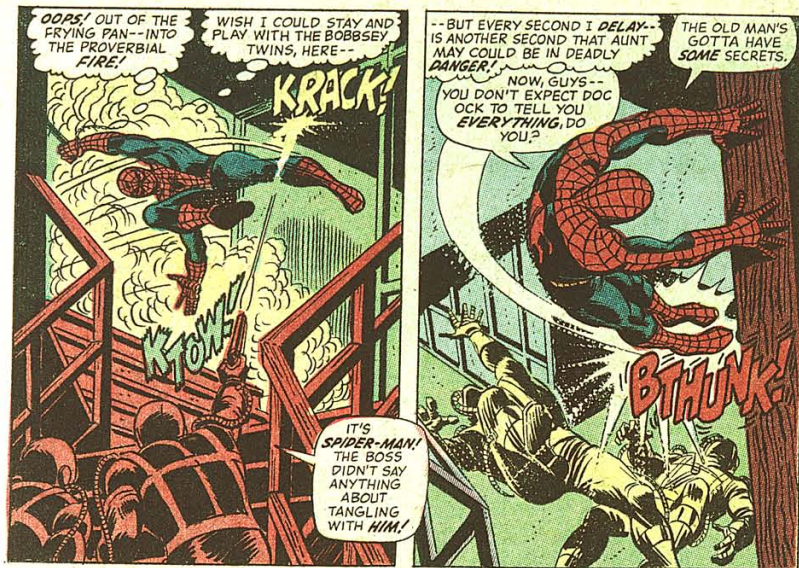
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Papers sent only to boys in Continental U.S.

GRIT PUBLISHING CO.,
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PLEASE PRINT

Dept. MC 102

Send my first bundle of papers, selling helps and prize offers.

Name _____

Are You a Boy? _____ Age _____ Date Born _____ Year _____

In Care of _____

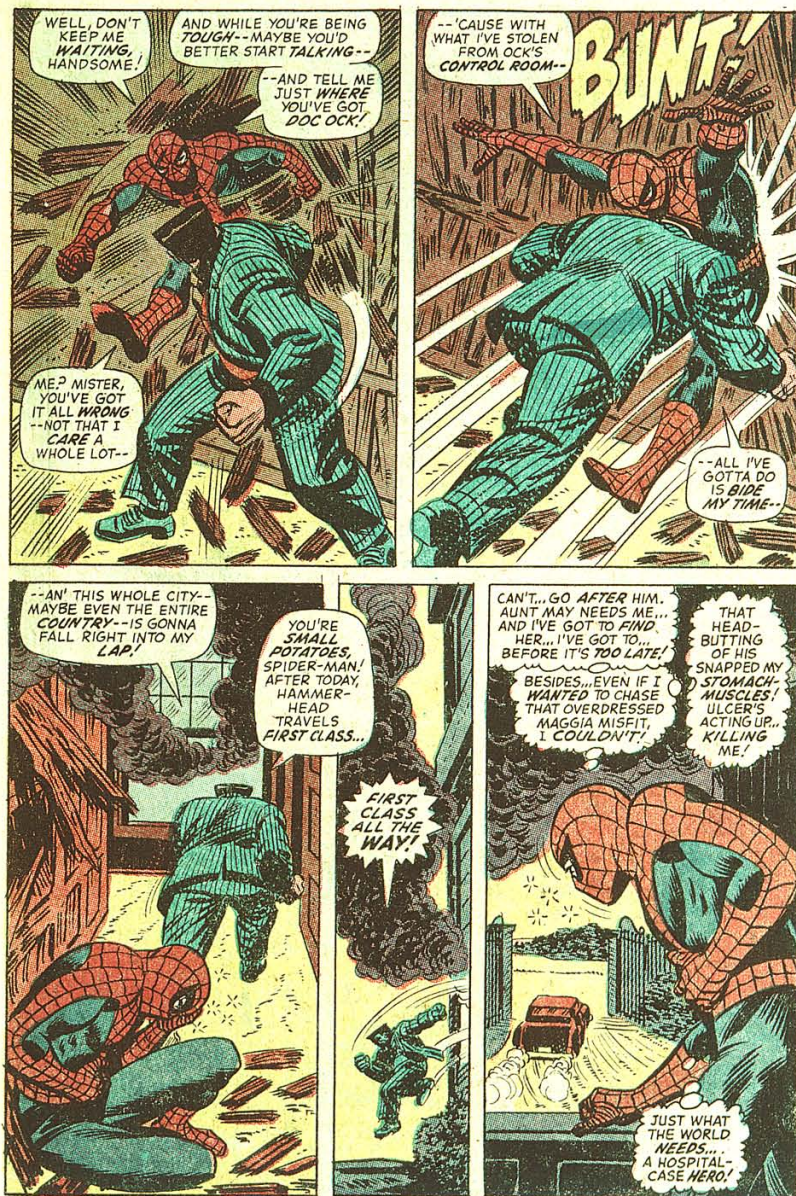
Street and No. _____ R.F.D. _____

Post Office _____ State _____

Zip Code No. _____

Print Your
Last Name
Plainly Here

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



WELL, DON'T KEEP ME WAITING, HANDSOME!

AND WHILE YOU'RE BEING TOUGH--MAYBE YOU'D BETTER START TALKING--

--AND TELL ME JUST WHERE YOU'VE GOT DOC OCK!

ME? MISTER, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG--NOT THAT I CARE A WHOLE LOT--

--CAUSE WITH WHAT I'VE STOLEN FROM OCK'S CONTROL ROOM--

BUNT!

--ALL I'VE GOTTA DO IS BIDE MY TIME--

--AN' THIS WHOLE CITY--MAYBE EVEN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY--IS GONNA FALL RIGHT INTO MY LAP!

YOU'RE SMALL POTATOES, SPIDER-MAN! AFTER TODAY, HAMMER-HEAD TRAVELS FIRST CLASS...

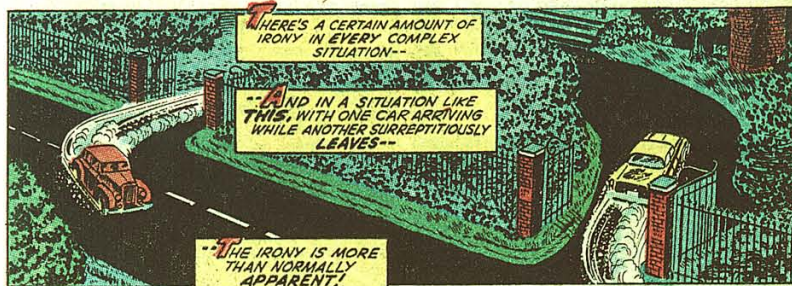
FIRST CLASS ALL THE WAY!

CAN'T...GO AFTER HIM. AUNT MAY NEEDS ME... AND I'VE GOT TO... HER...I'VE GOT TO... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

BESIDES...EVEN IF I WANTED TO CHASE THAT OVERDRESSED MAGGIA MISFIT, I COULDN'T!

THAT HEAD-BUTTING OF HIS SNAPPED MY STOMACH-MUSCLES! ULCER'S ACTING UP... KILLING ME!

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ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____
CITY _____ STATE _____

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Send \$1.00

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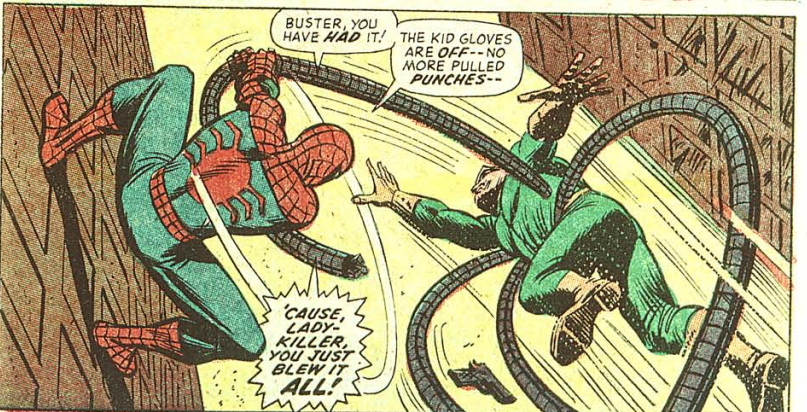
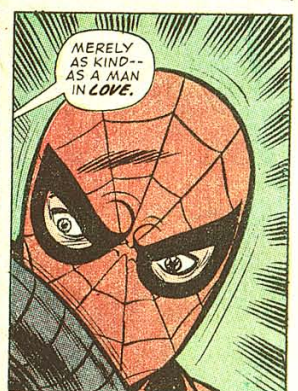
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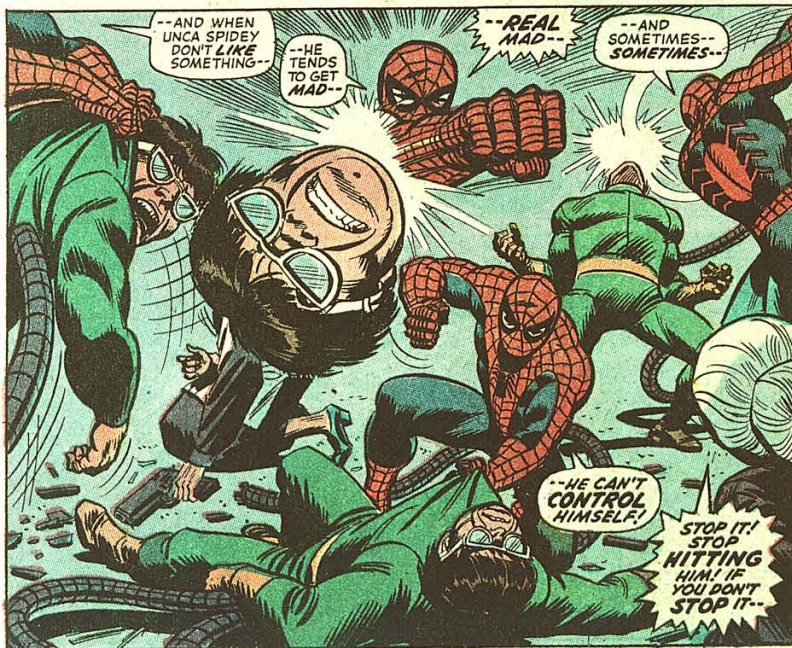
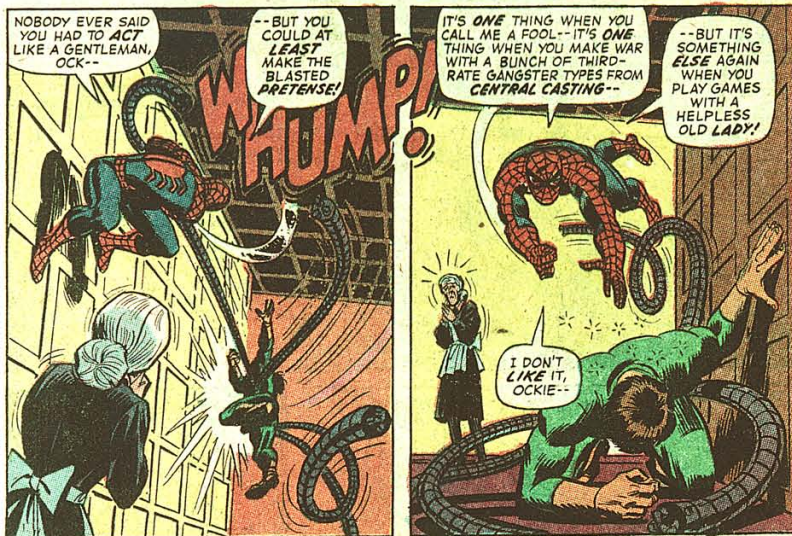
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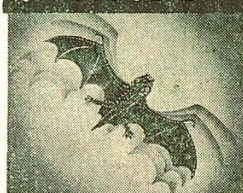
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Total Value \$9.00—Now \$2.50 SEND NO MONEY! Just send your name and address. On delivery pay \$2.50 plus C.O.D. postage. Or send \$2.50 plus 25¢ shipping and handling charges to receive C.O.D. cost. (Sorry, no C.O.D. outside Continental U.S.A.—except Western Canada.) Money back Guarantee.

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GOOD THING YOU NOTIFIED US WHEN YOU DID, MR. ROBERTSON.

APPARENTLY THESE FELLAS WERE GETTING READY TO LEAVE--BUT AS IT STANDS, WE GOT OURSELVES QUITE A CATCH.

I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT, LIEUTENANT.

WAIT--THERE'S THE WOMAN WE TOLD YOU ABOUT--



MRS. PARKER--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I-I'M NOT QUITE SURE, EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE SPINNING SO--

PERHAPS--IF I COULD JUST SIT AWHILE--

--JUST SIT--AND SORT IT ALL OUT.



OH, MRS. PARKER--WE'VE ALL BEEN SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW UPSET PETER'S BEEN--

--AND--HOW BADLY I FEEL FOR EVER TELLING YOU THOSE TERRIBLE THINGS--

DEAR GIRL, YOU MUSTN'T FEEL THAT WAY. WHAT YOU TOLD ME IS PERFECTLY TRUE.

I HAVE BEEN A SILLY OLD FOOL--AND I KNOW THAT NOW.



I THINK IT'S BEST WE DISCUSS THAT LATER, MRS. PARKER, FOR THE MOMENT, WE'RE HAPPY TO KNOW YOU'RE SAFE...

...AND THAT YOUR ABDUCTOR WILL SOON BE BEHIND BARS... WHERE HE BELONGS.

MY ABDUCTOR? WHATEVER ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MR. ROBERTSON?

MR. OCTAVIUS WAS MOST KIND TO ME--GIVING ME A POSITION WHEN I HARDLY KNEW WHAT TO DO--



MRS. PARKER--MY DEAR LADY--

COULD I SPEAK WITH YOU A MOMENT--PLEASE?

IS IT SAFE, OFFICER?

SURE, MR. ROBERTSON--WE'VE GOT THOSE TENTACLES OF HIS TUCKED AWAY IN ONE OF OUR ARMORED CARS. HE'S AS HARMLESS AS A FLY.



WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE WANTS TO TELL HER?

WHAT CAN HE TELL HER, NED?

A MAN LIKE OCTOPUS DOESN'T KNOW THE MEANING OF SORROW.

NO--THE THING THAT WORRIES ME NOW--IS THE LOCATION OF OUR FRIEND, MR. PARKER!

THAT'S RIGHT! HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE US!

DO YOU THINK--DO YOU THINK SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM?

SOMETHING AWFUL?



NOTHING. A DISCREET CHANGE OF CLOTHES CAN'T CURE GWEN--A CHANGE OUR YOUNG HERO IS CURRENTLY EFFECTING IN THE BASEMENT LOCKER ROOM HE DISCOVERED EARLIER--



--AND, WHEN THAT CHANGE IS FINISHED--

ROBERTSON...HERE WITH GWEN AND NED LEEDS.

HE WAS THE ONE WHO CALLED THE COPS. SCORE ONE FOR MY FAVORITE CITY EDITOR.

MAYBE SOMEDAY I'LL BE ABLE TO THANK HIM. BUT RIGHT NOW...



AUNT MAY--ARE YOU OKAY? YOU HAD ME WORRIED SICK--AND WHEN I FOUND OUT YOU WERE HERE--

WELL, I GUESS I WAS IN SUCH A HURRY--I GOT LOST. NOW CALM DOWN, PETER. YOU'RE SUCH AN EXCITABLE BOY.

--AND WHAT I HAVE TO TELL YOU--IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, PETER.

PLEASE--TRY TO UNDERSTAND THAT.

WHAT IS IT, AUNT MAY? WHAT'S WRONG?



I'M NOT COMING HOME WITH YOU, PETER. DOCTOR OCTAVIUS HAD ASKED ME TO STAY HERE, TO KEEP HIS HOUSE IN ORDER...

AND I'VE DECIDED TO ACCEPT!

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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

WOUI! Now that mixed-up Marvel has finally entered Phase Two of its vast, intergalactic operations, there's so much happening around here that I hardly know where to begin! You've probably seen most of the awesome announcements about our sensational new titles which are now on sale, titles like SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL and GOTHIC THRILLERS (starring a book-length adaptation of Theodore Sturgeon's world-famous chiller "It")—so I won't have to mention them, or any of our other nifty newbies, in this column. But, now that Marvel's on the move again, I do have to tell you about another sensation we've got in the works, slated to go on sale in December, for all the Marvel freaks on your Xmas list. (And what list would be complete without 'em?) It will present, in one giant-sized library edition, the actual ORIGINS of Marvel's greatest superheroes! And, if you wanna know how big and jam-packed it'll be, here's a heavy hint: it'll probably cost a dollar—and it would be a bargain at twice the price! But even that doesn't tell it all. They don't call us "The House of Ideas" for nothing. (Nope, we make them pay for it!) So, while you're still quaking in ecstatic anticipation, let's stop the whole thing off by announcing the most frantic, far-off, fabulously frenzied monster mag you've ever goose-pimpled over! It's called MONSTER MADNESS, and the first Marvel Commandment is: thou shalt not miss it! It'll be on sale soon, so watch for it while you save your bread. (Sixty cents worth oughta do the trick.) Well, there's lots more coming, but we're almost out of room, so I'll just leave you with this tinitinabulatin' thought: don't tell anyone what F.O.O.M. stands for! It's another little goodie we'll be tossin' at you, while Marvel Marches On!

Excelsior!

Stan

SPECIAL NOTE: DUE TO LACK OF SPACE ON THIS PAGE, THE WINNERS OF THE COMIX INDUSTRY'S OWN 1971 SHALAM AWARDS ARE ANNOUNCED ON THE LETTERS-PAGE OF CONAN THE BARBARIAN!

ITEM! We know we went into rapturous detail last time about our new mod-type jungle opus, SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL (now on sale, at last), so we won't wax eloquent over it again—except to mention that writer CAROL SEULING and artist GEORGE TUSKA were helped out at the last minute by a bit of additional dialogue from the nifty new ballpoint of STEVE GERBER—a name we predict you'll be seeing a lot more of, in the near future! Steve's an old confidant and correspondent of Roy's, whom he brought east to help himself and STEVE ENGLEHART with the editorial efforts on our ever-expanding comic line! Fact is, S. G.'s first solo scripting effort can already be witnessed, as well—in the current ish of FEAR, as he and RICH BUCKLER team up to raise the mighty Man-Thing to even loftier heights! Try it—you'll like it!

ITEM! Talking about new things, though—the big news this month is a spanking-new title called GOTHIC THRILLERS! That's the mag wherein we plan to present some of the greatest weird tales ever told—by some of the world's finest authors—in full, novel-length glory! And we're starting out with one of the most macabre sagas of all—an eerie little epic called "It!" The author: none other than THEODORE STURGEON, one of the most widely-acclaimed fantasy authors in the world! Story adaptation by ROY THOMAS, with art by MARIE SEVERIN and FRANK GIACOIA—and an eye-popping cover by one JIM STERANKO! (Yep, that's right—the Jaunty One has returned to the fold at last, and you'll be seeing his signature on a goodly number of our covers in the months to come, including the current ish of another new Marvel biggie, DOC SAVAGE! Welcome home, Mr. S! Now, if you'll just find the time to draw a few panels one of these first fine days...!)

ITEM! And, lest you think that our new JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY and CHAMBER OF CHILLS mags are going to turn into the usual ghosts-and-goblins fare, we invite you to feast your mind and eyes upon the now-on-sale ish of JOURNEY! It features a spine-tingler called "Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper," originally written by none other than ROBERT BLOCH—the far-famed author of Psycho and other wondrous works of mystery and menace! The story adaptation, by the way, is by GIL KANE and

RON GOULART—and if the latter name looks familiar, it's 'cause Ron himself is a well-known fantasy writer, whose recent novel *After Things Fall Apart* has received countless rave reviews! Face it, friend—the Top Talent has come home to roost in the House of Ideas—and we wouldn't want it any other way!

MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Now On Sale!

FANTASTIC FOUR #129: The Human Torch quits the F.F.! The Thing embattled! Plus, the return of the Frightful Four—starring a nefarious new recruit you'll never forget!

THOR #206: The Thunder God's greatest fight! The Absorbing Man strikes again! All this—and some of the most mind-boggling artwork ever!

DOC SAVAGE #2: The cataclysmic conclusion of Doc's first, fabulous adventure! The fightin' five against—the Son of the Feathered Serpent! Set in the 1930's—because you demanded it!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #156: This is it! Captain America vs. Captain America! Bucky vs. the Falcon! If you miss this one, you'll regret it! You have been warned!

GOTHIC THRILLERS #1: Like we said—Sturgeon, Steranko, Severin, Thomas, and Giacoia! 'Nuff, already?

SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL #1: Jungle adventure—with a twist! And an awesome origin that'll move and shake you! An instant smash!

Not to mention, these way-out winners:

SPIDER-MAN #115 (The Hordes of Hammerhead) — **HULK #158** — **AVENGERS #106** — **DAREDEVIL #94** (How do you defeat a guy called — The Indestructible Man?) — **SUB-MARINER #56** — **IRON MAN #53** — **HERO FOR HIRE #4** (Now monthly—and greater than ever!) — **ASTONISHING TALES #15** — **THE DEFENDERS #3** — **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #21** (The Monster of the Monolith) — **WARLOCK #3** — **JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #2** — **GUNHAWKS #2** — **FEAR #11** — **COMBAT KELLY #4** — **JUNGLE ACTION #2** — **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #7** (The Ghost Rider—who else?) — **SGT. FURY #105**—and a whole passel of pulse-pounding paradigms! Collect 'em all!



THE SPIDERS' WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, NINTH FLOOR 575 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Stan and John,

SPIDER-MAN #110-111 were great! Both story and art were very good, and I congratulate you both. You've really got me worried about Aunt May's leaving. I hope you know what you are doing, because this could lead to trouble. Anyway, I'm glad you brought back Kraven the Hunter, if only for a while. It was different having Kraven forcing the Gibbon to fight Spider-Man, instead of doing it himself. I liked that. I really liked the way Romita showed Kraven yelling at the Gibbon. That art was terrific! All these things really make SPIDEY worth reading. Keep up the good work!

John Dandrea
Rockhill Furn, Pa. 17249

Dear Stan, John, and Gerry,

Okay, now hear this! SPIDEY #111 was the worst work I've ever seen! I mean, it made me sick. To start with, the cover art was nowhere. The same goes for the inking of the cover. Kraven's costume should have been fully covered with color, instead of only half of it! And another thing: when you had Gil Kane drawing the strip, I thought he was the worst artist I'd ever seen. Then, in ish #105, you announced that John was coming back. I nearly died of happiness! But was I ever disappointed. John, John... whatever happened to your great works of art like when Doc Ock stole the nullifier or when Spidey and the Green Goblin had that historic free-for-all in issues #39-40? And you, Stan, please come back to Spider-Man. This is no offense to you, Gerry, but Stan just has the master touch. As for Pete's situation with Gwen Stacy, just get rid of her—she is nothing but a pain in the neck. A few last words. There are two old villains I would like to see back, the Vulture and the Shocker. Please, please save Spidey. Can't you see you're slowly killing him?

J. Alan Bolick, 2285 Brockett Rd.
Tucker, Ga.

John Dandrea, thanks for the kind words.

J. Alan Bolick, we appreciate the stern yet constructive criticism, too.

And, Marveldom Assembled, for the record: these two letters indicate pretty much how your comments ran on SPIDEY #111. Either ya loved it madly, or you utterly despised it! There were precious few middle-of-the-web reactions.

Also for the record, we gotta take issue with J. Alan's comment that we're "slowly killing" Spidey. It's true of course, that Gerry is toying with some new approaches to the character and that his prose style is different from Stan's...but we think Ger has some mighty fine ideas in the works. And the Aunt May/Doc Ock/Spidey fracas now in progress is only a sample of what's to come.

Y'know, after one writer has become identified as closely with a strip as Stan has with SPIDER-MAN, it's only natural for you guys 'n gals to rebel when a "sinister new influence" is unleashed.

To paraphrase John Lennon, give Gerry a chance. And we humbly ask the same indulgence for Roy on FANTASTIC FOUR. These two gentlemen are planning to take both those strips down roads no one ever even

considered before!

And that's enough speech-makin'. More of your comments, now:

Dear Stan, John, Gil, etc.:

You're ruined Kraven. Kraven the Hunter, that is. The Kraven we all came to know and hate, Ditko's Kraven, was very, very different from the Kraven who appears all too often now. The earlier Kraven was cool, logical, intelligent, and patient. He would spend days, weeks, studying his opponent; then he'd make his move coolly, mercilessly, and quickly, using perfect logic and showing little emotion. He would withdraw, rather than retreat; retreat, rather than die. He could almost be idolized, and would certainly be admired. But now, we have a hate-filled, emotional maniac. In SPIDEY #111, he grimaced and snarled through all 31 panels in which we could see his face. He hasn't changed too radically, but he has gone from a first-rate to a second- or even third-rate villain. Please bring back the old Kraven. He'll add variety to your comics—especially SPIDER-MAN. Believe me, variety you can use. Haven't seen any in a long time.

RFO, KOF Jerry Jones
256 Las Miradas Dr., Los Gatos, Calif. 95030

Dear Friends,

What's wrong with you guys? Can't you see that a love can last a lifetime? Why don't you try that idea? My parents have. So have a lot of other couples I know. Love isn't all misery! There's a lot of happiness in it, too. But almost all of your costumed wonders haven't found that out.

A perfect example is good old Spider-Man himself. Idiot Parker doesn't realize that Gwen loves him, and now he thinks she's going to run off with Flash Thompson! Now that's stupid! We all know Gwen is in love with Pete (though I don't know why, with all his problems!) So please let Peter wise up! He and all the other heroes have enough problems to last a century. Please let them have some joy in at least one way.

I know you'll say it isn't true, that this doesn't happen in real life, but it does, and it will! We've just got too many skeptics who don't believe any love in this world exists or lasts.

I love your characters, and I love your comics. (Yet another example of undying love!) And as long as you keep making them, I'll keep reading them. So, now that I've had my say, I'll sign off.

Love,

Kathy Raisz, 900 Notley Road
Silver Springs, Md. 20904

Don't be too hard on us, Kath. The Bullpenners are staunch believers in love...but we know, too, that it's not all you need. Sometimes, you need not to be Spidey, or the Vision, or Tony Stark before things can really work. Or maybe you need enough self-assurance to think that who (or what) you are doesn't matter. Whatever the case, our heroes have had more than their share of ill-fated romances—but that only means the percentages are in their favor next time. Maybe.

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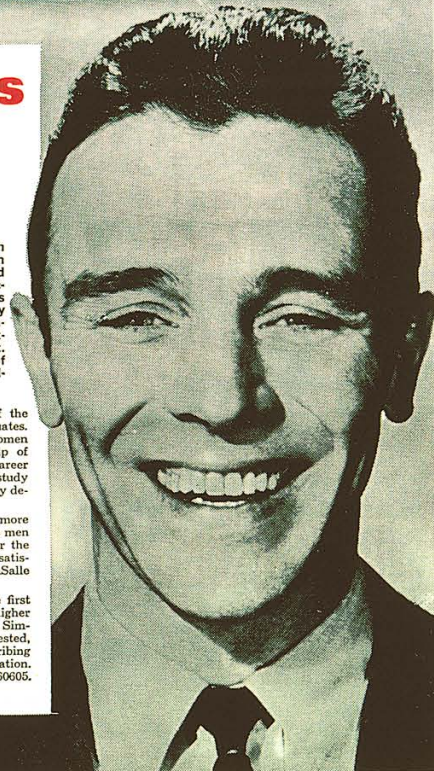
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